

6.0 MITIGATION

Mitigation Summary for Oneida County

Table 15 is a summarization of potential problems/risks and recommended mitigation for all areas of concern within Oneida County. The priority rating for each area of concern was established based on interviews with fire chiefs and emergency services personnel.

Table 15. Mitigation Summary for Oneida County.

Oneida County Priority rating	Potential Problems/Risks	Responsible Agency/Recommended Mitigation
High	Hazardous fuels on private land	<p>County, Homeowners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in educational programs funded by grants to reduce fuels by creating survivable space. • Host cleanup days and offer incentives for removal of hazardous fuels (chipping services, free dump days at the landfill). • Place evacuation plan map and map of readily available water sources for each subdivision within a lockable container and positioned at the entrance of subdivision. • Place safety flags on standpipes used for drafting at each water source. • Construct fuel breaks at designated locations (see map). • Maintain fuel breaks (periodic mowing, greenstripping, noxious and invasive weed removal). • Widen roads for better ingress and egress.
High	Hazardous fuels on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land (approximately 30,000 acres) with approximately 7,300 acres designated as State Priority area or occupied habitat for sharptailed grouse	<p>CRP members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate seasonal and absentee property owner as to fire risks. • Conduct fuel treatment within older stands of grass and shrubs to reduce hazardous fuels and to improve sharptailed grouse habitat. • Create fuel breaks around newly seeded acreage • Utilize grazing, mowing, haying and other approved methods to reduce fuel loads • Develop a water source (dry hydrant) in the immediate area. • Contact NRCS for guidance and further recommendations.
High	No Red Zone program	<p>Federal, Fire Districts, Homeowners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct surveys identifying potential hazards a home may pose to firefighters during a wildland fire. • Conduct surveys identifying measures a home owner will take to reduce risks of their home igniting during a wildfire. • Conduct surveys identifying water sources, access concerns (bridges/road width), and utility location information needed by firefighters. • Mail surveys to homeowners for review. Include Firewise documents in the mailing to aid the homeowner in creating survivable space around the home.

Oneida County Priority rating	Potential Problems/Risks	Responsible Agency/Recommended Mitigation
High	Inadequate fire fighting apparatus	County (upgrade or purchase new) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment – Turnout Gear.
High	Inadequate communication system	County, State, Federal, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require compatible communication system for all parties involved in fire protection.
High	Transition from wideband to narrowband with communications equipment and operations has the potential to adversely affect firefighter safety and performance, specifically in the initial and extended action environment (NIFC, 2004).	Federal, State, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate local conversion to narrowband to match Federal schedule. Firefighters and aerial resources must withdraw from fire operations activities if positive communication with their forces, supervisor, or adjoining forces is compromised. Ensure local frequency management plans are in place and understood to support initial and extended action activities, and include contingencies for cooperator and aviation resources. If communication problems become an issue, the fall back position is to revert to wideband mode. Report problems with specific details through SAFENET or SAFECOM reporting systems.
High	Inadequate fire fighting apparatus	County (upgrade or purchase new) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-medium or heavy engines to BLM specifications. 4000 gallon tender. CAFS units for two engines.
High	Inadequate access for Firefighting apparatus	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire a full time Fire Marshall to inspect and enforce fire related codes. Pass an ordinance that all new construction will meet county road standards. Inspect bridges and post weight ratings. Adopt a county wildland fire code-identifying road and construction standards. This should include provisions for requiring more than one access route into subdivisions. Require that all roads be clearly marked with road name signs on metal poles. Ensure adequate access in winter time months. Provide turnarounds within each subdivision to accommodate the largest fire district apparatus.
High	Inadequate winter water supply and drafting locations	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue grant opportunities to purchase additional water tenders. Request grant funding to develop dry hydrant systems as delineated (see map). Require storage tanks (cisterns) and/or hydrant systems in new subdivisions.
High	No regulation regarding burning permits	Federal, State DEQ, County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create county ordinance regarding burning. Educate public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify sheriff's office of controlled burns. Coordinate with state and federal agencies using fire restrictions.

Oneida County Priority rating	Potential Problems/Risks	Responsible Agency/Recommended Mitigation
Medium	Lack of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for new subdivisions	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt, as needed, portions of NFPA 1141 Standard for Fire Protection in Planned Building Groups (2003.) • Adopt, as needed, portions of NFPA 1143 Standard for Wildland Fire Management (2003). • Adopt, as needed, portions of NFPA 1144 Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire (2002). • Fire Districts should meet and discuss the current system of building permit review and identify problems that exist and implement solutions.
Medium	Lack of GIS standards on fire district maps	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop color-coded standards for fire district maps showing water sources, grain elevators, gas depots, chemical and hazardous materials, sewer lagoons, and natural gas lines, to name a few.
Medium	Hazardous fuels between improved property and defined boundary (WUI) and within improved property	County, Homeowners, State and Federal Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Urban-Wildland Interface Code that applies to the construction, alteration, moving, repair, maintenance and use of any building, structure or premises within the wildland interface areas in this jurisdiction (see Appendix A). • Construct fuel breaks at designated locations (see map). • Maintain fuel breaks (periodic mowing, greenstripping, noxious and invasive weed removal). • Widen roads for better ingress and egress. • Public Education Programs.
Medium	Hazardous fuels on public land	Caribou-Targhee National Forest, County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous fuels reduction project involving the area within Oneida County. Activities include but are not limited to: 1) thinning of small diameter noncommercial size trees, 2) hand piling of thinned trees and other slash followed by burning, 3) public firewood gathering, 4) removal of fuels by private contractors, 5) commercial timber sales, and 6) prescribed burning where safe and at minimal risk to private property. • County and local fire cooperators will help the Forest Service identify other areas of concern and promote the need for doing this type of work. • Idaho Department of Lands will assess the state owned sections for opportunities to do fuel reduction projects on their lands. • County will comply with Development Code adopted August 17, 2000 and amended May 12, 2003 concerning setback standards for new construction adjacent to public lands.
Medium	Reduce human-caused fires	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with its federal cooperators to develop grass roots fire prevention efforts to reduce the occurrence of person caused fire ignitions through public education and participation in community events. • Develop partnerships with local businesses to promote fire prevention. Some examples are Sporting goods dealers will display materials relating to campfires and outdoor activities,

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		Landscaping companies will display information relating to survivable space and fire resistant plants, Agriculture related businesses will display information related to agricultural burning, Off road vehicle dealers will display information related to fire prevention as it relates to OHV.
Low	Excess debris created by the fuels reduction project	County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request grant funding to purchase an industrial chipper or make arrangements to use the Forest Service chipper. • Provide chips to the general public and local entities for heating and power generating operations. • Identify areas where people can dump debris. • Offer free dump passes.
Low	No power pole protection	County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install fireproof sleeves around power poles at designated locations. This will require cooperation and coordination with Utah Power and Electric and/or Rural Electric Association.
Low	Open areas with no fire protection	County Fire Commissioners, State Tax Commission, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new fire protection district for open areas.
Low	Inadequate bridges and culverts	County, Fire Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate alternate routes for emergency vehicles. • Provide turnarounds to accommodate the largest fire district apparatus.

Fuels Mitigation for Oneida Fire District

This section identifies specific hazards and mitigations within the Oneida Fire District. Mitigations were developed in consultation with the fire department and the public during the planning meeting and tow public meetings.

I-15 Corridor

Hazards: Flammable materials thrown from passing vehicles, semi-trucks with hot brakes and vehicle accidents.

Mitigation: Educate traveling public to fire danger, Install **Fire Danger** signs at the State line and encourage the use of engine braking devices on Malad Summit.

Hansel Mountains

Hazards: No Access, frequent lightning started fires, high priority area for sage and sharptailed grouse limit fire fighting capabilities during certain times of the year and on suitable grouse habitat.

Mitigation: Work with Federal agencies and private landowners to create public access, work with U.S. Forest Service on the management plan for the area to clearly state what can,

and what cannot be accomplished, and attempt to resolve conflict with the management plan for that area.

Stone and Holbrook Area

Hazards: The identified hazard within the city of Holbrook is a buildup of fine fuels and no survivable space (Figures 8 and 9, Mitigation Summary, Table 15). Response time is lengthy because 911 calls go to Box Elder County Utah and not Oneida County.

Mitigation: Develop a Mutual Aid Agreement with Box Elder County and formalize with a written agreement.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds

Hazards: Flashy fuels that will continue under a fire regime, and loss of productivity from the species on public and private lands.

Mitigation: Identify areas on the maps where large concentrations exist (Cow Hollow, Cove Burn, and South Bull Canyon) and work with BLM and FS to graze the areas at times that cheatgrass is most susceptible to control. Move turn out dates to May and early June and not mid- to late June. Increase funding through grants and agreements for County crews to treat weed infestation areas. For additional information see Environmental Effects – Weed Establishment.

Federal Land – Fuels Reduction Program

Hazards: Currently the Caribou-Targhee National Forest is conducting a fuels reduction project on the north end of the county and within the Summit Campground. In addition, the Forest Service has recently released a public scoping statement proposing to treat up to 600 acres in the Spring Canyon area. The Forest Service will continue to identify problem areas with heavy fuel buildup and treat these areas in accordance with the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest.

Mitigation: The BLM has identified Samaria, the Deep Creek Mountains, and Pleasantview Hills as project sites. The objectives of these projects are: (1) to protect wildland-Urban interface where it exists (Samarias) and (2) improve forest and mountain shrubland health (e.g. thinning conifer stands, reducing the number of standing dead and down trees, rejuvenation of aspen and mountain shrub stands). The treatments would include commercial logging, non-commercial cutting of smaller diameter trees, and prescribed burning (both pile burning and broadcast burning).

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Hazards: Portions of CRP land within this fire district are designated as State Priority area or occupied habitat for both sage grouse and sharptailed grouse (personal communication, James Kumm, BLM, 2004). Lightning, water availability, fine flashy fuels, seasonally occupied homes, and no regulation to stop fires from coming off of the CRP land.

Mitigation: (see Table 15, Mitigation Summary).

Survivable Space

Hazards: Examples of homes with moderate to low survivable space are shown in Figures 4 through 9. Figure 10 is an example of a home in the Third Creek Subdivision with good survivable space.

Mitigations: (see Table 18. A Checklist for Homeowners).

Power lines

A power line bisecting Oneida County from south to north and heavy fuel loads exist at the base of the poles (Figure 11).

Mitigation: Install metal sleeves on the poles and sterilize the soil at the base of each pole.

Dry Hydrant, Cisterns, and Drafting Locations

New subdivisions should assess property owners a fee to develop a community water source such as a cistern for fire use. Adopt County Codes and Ordinances to set construction materials, water sources, road widths, height clearances and bridge standards.

Dry hydrant and drafting locations are identified (Figures 1 and 12). Also see Table 15, Mitigation Summary, Mitigation summary, and Environmental Effects). For additional information see *Planning for Water Supply and Distribution in the Wildland/Urban Interface* (2004).



Figure 4. Summit Subdivision showing heavy fuel loads and low survivable space.



Figure 5. New Canyon Subdivision showing fine fuels and moderate survivable space.



Figure 6. New Canyon Subdivision home showing fine fuels and moderate survivable space.



Figure 7. Juniper Addition showing fine fuels, heavy juniper and no survivable space.



Figure 8. Holbrook home showing fine fuels and low survivable space.



Figure 9. Abandoned structures within Holbrook showing fine fuel buildup and low survivable space.



Figure 10. Third Creek Subdivision home showing adequate survivable space.



Figure 11. Heavy fuels at base of power poles.



Figure 12. Devil Creek Reservoir outlet showing dry hydrant or drafting location.